

POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES



MEDFORD
OREGON

January 18, 2022

4:30 P.M.

Virtual Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

Ms. Thornton called the meeting to order.

10. Roll Call

Present: Roberta Thornton, Gary Duvall, Maureen Swift, James Coli, Addison Smith, Ron Havniear, Bob Roe, Denise James, DC Arnold, DC Graham, LT Mike Budreau, SGT Ernie Whiteman, Amanda Linville

Absent: Councilman Stark, Councilman Miller, Chief Ivens

20. Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2021

After review of the minutes, Ms. James noted that her name was left off the absent section of Roll Call. Ms. Swift made the motion to approve the corrected minutes.

30. Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience

None.

40. Review of Citizen Comment Cards and Other Communications

Ms. Swift noted that there were several comments related to mental illness. The paper had an article discussing a big push from outside of the area to create a program similar to CAHOOTS in Eugene.

DC Arnold stated that the City had looked into the CAHOOTS model and the Livability Team has some similar aspects. There currently is not enough stakeholders and community partners to make the program work.

Mr. Roe asked if the department was looking into having non-sworn personnel respond to mental health calls.

DC Arnold noted that the idea was kicked around, but Jackson County Mental Health already has a hard time trying to hire employees wanting to do that type of work and does not know if that is something we could do.

DC Graham also added that it is hard to find anyone who wants to do work that involves that level of risk and fear without an officer assisting them.

Mr. Duvall read an article in Friday's paper stating that 1280 people were cited under Measure 110 and 51 individuals called into the hotline, of those only 8 people asked for treatment information. The stats show that this was a complete failure of addiction services.

LT Budreau stated that we have a long way to go with addiction services. He served 2 years on the mental health court and heard a lot of success stories and a lot of not successful stories and most people who did not want to get clean only did so after facing consequences and were made to. People need more than a phone number to get clean.

Mr. Duvall noted that there appears to be a lot more graffiti around town.

LT Budreau advised that is was primarily due to a couple of individuals. We have 2 CSO's who work with CPL Doran on the graffiti cases and have arrested several suspects who serve their time and then head back out. CSO Sales also works on graffiti eradication, but he mostly focuses on the bike path.

Mr. Smith asked if the homeowner is responsible if their personal property is tagged.

LT Budreau advised that the homeowner is responsible and needs to remove the graffiti. The law states that they have a certain amount of time to remove it.

Mr. Smith asked for any advice on how to prevent the graffiti from happening on private property.

LT Budreau stated that getting rid of it quickly so that they see that it is not worth the time to tag there because it will just be removed is the best prevention, but spotlighting is also a good option.

DC Arnold added that anti-graffiti paint coating is something that the City requires on the murals that are put up around town. If graffiti is put on the mural it can be removed with soap and water. The coating can be purchased at Sherwin-Williams, but it is not cheap.

50. Internal Affairs Reports / Quarterly

SGT Whiteman went over the fourth quarter statistics. There were five incidents, three external and two internal. One was sustained, three unfounded, and one under investigation.

SGT Whiteman provided updates on two allegations from the previous quarter.

Mr. Duvall asked if the complainant ever received notification of the outcome of their complaint.

SGT Whiteman advised that they do via a mailed letter.

Ms. Swift noted that the body-worn cameras have been a great thing to come along. Having the visual evidence has caused the amount of complaints to go down.

DC Arnold stated that he could not agree more. He has had people change their minds on a complaint when they were told there was video evidence.

DC Graham also noted that the not sustained number has almost gone away. In the past we could not determine what actually happened and now we have video.

DC Arnold added that he is surprised when agencies do not use them or they are just now using them, but they are extremely expensive, costing approximately a few hundred thousand a biennium.

60. Department Updates – Deputy Chief Arnold

Chief Clauson retired on 12/31/21, which brought about a lot of movement and changes to the department. DJ Graham was promoted to Deputy Chief and now leads our Operations Bureau, Geoff Kirkpatrick was promoted to Lieutenant, and is supervising the Community Engagement Division. In that same process, SGT Mark Cromwell was selected as the next Lieutenant to be promoted with the retirement of LT Budreau. SGT Tom Venables was selected to move from his Patrol Sergeant position to the Livability Sergeant position and Nick Alden was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant and will be assigned to a patrol team. 7 candidates applied for the Sergeant position, Nick Alden was selected and two additional applicants, Ericka Doran and Randy Jewell, were selected for anticipated upcoming sergeant vacancies due to retirements. We are currently in the process of interviewing and selecting up to three new corporals.

Ms. Swift asked if we had a hiring shortage.

DC Arnold advised that we were approved to overfill in anticipation of these vacancies.

SGT Whiteman added that we have 11 recruits in training and are looking to pick up 3 additional.

LT Budreau stated that we had 10 openings this year alone and we have been able to stay ahead of it.

DC Arnold added kudos to City Staff for giving approval to overfill because it puts us in a good position.

This month the entire department completed our annual ethics training. This is our sixth year working with ETHOS consulting team. This is truly an invaluable training that reaffirms MPD's commitment to honesty, integrity and accountability.

DC Arnold attended an executive training conference hosted by the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police with Chief Ivens last week. The focus was around the importance of providing and offering quality training to your staff. MPD is by far the leader in the state of Oregon for quality training we provide and offer to our employees.

Ms. Swift commented that there seems to be a lot of murders and asked if there was anything specific that was causing them.

LT Budreau noted that drugs play a major role in most if not all of the cases. We had seven this last year and we usually average 1 or 2. It is definitely out of the norm. We are just a few weeks into January and have already had one. There is no easy answer.

Ms. Swift asked about the status of the crime stat data. LT Budreau noted that we cannot count stats until Records has classified the case and due to a new Records management system they are behind in classifying and the transition has been more challenging than anticipated.

DC Arnold added that we have a program, GeoShield that pulls data from the records management system and CAD, but it is not currently pulling accurate data.

Mr. Havniar asked if the department had selected a consulting firm for studying staffing.

DC Arnold advised that we had and we are working with them on a calls for service analysis through ECSO and they will be coming out and doing a site visit.

Mr. Coli asked if we have been successful in shutting down illegal cannabis grows.

DC Arnold stated that we have a dedicated team, IMET that works just illegal marijuana cases and it is a year round job. Sheriff Sickler has petitioned the State for more funding as the goal is to continue to grow the Team.

70. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 19, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

80. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.



Roberta Thornton, Chair


Chief Justin Ivens

Amanda Linville, Executive Support Specialist